

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-9 are allowed and the indication that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, claim 18 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 10, 15 and 18 have been amended to more particularly define applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the changes to these claims make explicit that which applicant believed to be already implicit, and were not made to narrow the scope of protection for statutory purposes.

Claims 10-15, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aylward ("Aylward," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0166790 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's claim 10, as amended, is directed to a storage unit comprising a "storage sheet" having a "plurality of compartments" for storing components. The storage sheet is further defined to have an "outer perimeter" and an "access edge" formed therein that is at least partially spaced apart from the outer perimeter. Further, a "tear guide line" is defined on the storage sheet, that "surrounds" the storage sheet and "intersects" the access edge such that the access edge provides access for tearing the tear guide line. Moreover, "tearing" the tear guide line enables removal of "all" of the plurality of compartments. In this way, a user can easily remove all of the unused medicine or other components in the compartments without having to separate each of the components. Aylward does not teach or suggest this combination of features.

Aylward is directed to a multicell blister package having a thermoformed cap. Although Aylward teaches a plurality of compartments in the form of multiple cells in blister packaging, Aylward does not teach a tear guide line that surrounds the entire sheet of blister packaging, nor that enables removal of all of the compartments by tearing the tear guide line. Instead, and as shown in Figs. 1A and 1C, a single cell or compartment is removable by tearing connecting member 160. Applicant respectfully submits this is patentably distinct from applicant's claim 10 tear guide line that surrounds the storage sheet and intersects the access edge, thereby enabling

removal of all of the plurality of compartments on the storage sheet. Therefore, Aylward does not anticipate applicant's claim 10, and claim 10 is patentable.

Claims 11-15, 19 and 20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 10 and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the claim(s) from which they depend.

Claims 10, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Katzner et al. ("Katzner," U.S. Patent No. 6,155,423) in view of Aylward. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that Katzner does not supply the elements of applicant's claim 10 that are missing from the teachings of Aylward. In particular, Katzner does not teach or suggest a tear guide line that surrounds the entire sheet of blister packaging, nor that enables removal of all of the compartments by tearing the tear guide line. Therefore, for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to Aylward, the combination of Katzner and Aylward does not teach or suggest the combination of features set forth in applicant's claim 10. Therefore, claim 10 is patentable over the combination of Katzner and Aylward.

Claims 16 and 17 depend directly from claim 10 and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in claim 10.

Claims 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has identified limitations in those claims that lack sufficient antecedent basis. As noted above, claims 15 and 18 have been amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). In particular, the Examiner objects to the drawings for not showing the relative cut-to-land lengths of the first and second tear guide lines. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

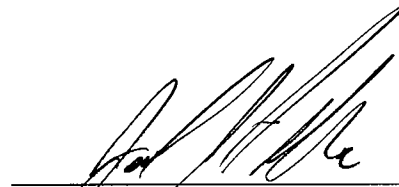
Claims 3 and 4 are directed to the relative ratios of cut-to-land with regard to the "first tear guide line" and the "second tear guide line." As known in the art, a cut-to-land ratio in a perforation line represents the ratio of the length of a cut portion to the length of a non-cut

portion (i.e., the land portion), and also the degree of ease with which a perforation line can be torn. For example, a high cut-to-land ratio is easier to tear than a small cut-to-land ratio. In accordance with claims 3 and 4, the cut-to-land ratio of the first tear guide line is greater than that of the second tear guide line. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that drawings indicating the respective cut-to-line ratios of the first and second tear guide lines are not necessary for the understanding of the invention, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §113. Reconsideration is accordingly requested.

Therefore, and in view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS
FILING SYSTEM ON February 14, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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